

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 06818 271339Z
ACTION EA-12

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SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: CONTROVERSY DELAYS
CERTIFICATION OF TWO REGION'S RESULTS; SELECTION
OF SECTORAL REPS UNDERWAY
REF: MANILA 5801

1. SUMMARY: COMELEC HAS ANNOUNCED OFFICIAL IBP ELECTION RESULTS FOR 11 OF THE 13 REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT'S KBL PARTY HAS WON ALL BUT ONE OF THESE 144 SEATS, WITH 21 SEATS STILL UNDECIDED. COMELEC IS STILL DEALING WITH KBL PROTESTS IN THE CEBU REGION AND OPPOSITION PROTESTS IN THE COTABATO REGION. MEANWHILE, SELECTION OF 14 IBP MEMBERS TO REPRESENT YOUTH AND LABOR SECTORS IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN MANILA. PRESIDENT MARCOS IS EXPECTED TO NAME 20 NON-ELECTED CABINET MEMBERS TO THE IBP BY MID-MAY AND TO CONVENE THE 200-MEMBER INTERIM LEGISLATURE ON JUNE 12, PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) HAS, OVER THE PAST TEN DAYS, CERTIFIED THE INTERIM LEGISLATURE ELECTION RESULTS IN ALL BUT TWO OF THE COUNTRY'S 13 REGIONS. ONLY ONE NON-KBL CANDIDATE HAS OFFICIALLY WON THUS FAR: RUBEN
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PAGE 02 MANILA 06818 271339Z

CANOY OF THE MINDANAO ALLIANCE PARTY IN REGION X. CANOY WAS UNTIL 1976 MAYOR OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY AND UNDER-SECRETARY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION. ALL CABINET MEMBERS WHO WERE CANDIDATES HAVE PLACED AT OR NEAR THE TOP OF THEIR REGIONAL LISTS.

3. CONTROVERSY STILL SURROUNDS THE REMAINING TWO REGIONS

(VII (CEBU) AND XII (COTABATO)) BECAUSE OF STRONG CLAIMS OF ELECTION FRAUD. IN CEBU, THE NEO-OPPOSITION PUSYON BISAYA PARTY IS LEADING FOR ALL 13 SEATS, BUT UNCOUNTED RESULTS FROM NEGROS ORIENTAL PROVINCE MAY PERMIT SOME KBL CANDIDATES TO WIN. KBL HAS FILED A REQUEST THAT COMELEC DISQUALIFY ALL PB CANDIDATES FOR FRAUD AND VOTE-BUYING. SEVERAL REPORTS INDICATE THE PB, FORMED BY RETIRING COMELEC COMMISSIONER MADARANG (A CEBU POLITICIAN) AND RUMORED TO BE FUNDED BY EVEN HIGHER-LEVEL OFFICIALS, HAD MORE MONEY TO SPEND THAN THE OFFICIAL KBL. PB HAS COUNTER CHARGED THAT THE NEGROS RESULTS WERE DOCTORED WHEN THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION REGISTRAR WAS KIDNAPPED WHILE BRINGING THE OFFICIAL RETURNS TO CEBU FOR TABULATION (REFTEL); THE RETURNS WERE DUMPED ON THE CEBU CAPITAL'S FRONT STEPS 30 HOURS AFTER THE REGISTRAR DISAPPEARED; HE HAS SINCE CLAIMED THAT HE WENT INTO HIDING BECAUSE OF A DEATH THREAT AND THAT THE RESULTS WERE NOT ALTERED. COMELEC MET APRIL 24 AND ORDERED THAT ANOTHER COPY OF THE NEGROS RETURNS BE COUNTED. "DAILY EXPRESS" COLUMNIST VALENCIA HAS COMPLAINED REPEATEDLY THAT COMELEC'S DELAYS GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF BACK-ROOM BARGAINING RATHER THAN HONEST VOTE-COUNTING. SKETCHY PRESS REPORTS FROM COTABATO INDICATE THAT AN OPPOSITION GROUP HAS FORMALLY PROTESTED PRO-KBL VOTE FRAUD IN LANA DEL SUR PROVINCE, THE TERRITORY OF MUSLIM KINGPIN GOV. ALI DIMAPORO. KBL IS AHEAD FOR ALL EIGHT SEATS THERE.

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PAGE 03 MANILA 06818 271339Z

4. SELECTION OF 14 SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE INTERIM LEGISLATURE ARE TAKING PLACE TODAY (APRIL 27) AT THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER IN MANILA. THERE ARE 148 CANDIDATES FOR THE 14 SEATS: 47 FOR 6 YOUTH SEATS, 53 FOR 4 AGRICULTURAL LABOR SEATS, AND 48 FOR 4 INDUSTRIAL LABOR SEATS. 266 OFFICIAL ELECTORS -- 92 EACH FOR INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL LABOR, 82 FOR YOUTH -- REPRESENT THE SECTORAL MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL AND CITY SANGGUNIAN BAYANS (CHOSEN BY PROVINCE) AND NATIONAL SECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE ELECTORS HEARD CAMPAIGN SPEECHES YESTERDAY, WILL VOTE TODAY. ALL ELECTORS WILL VOTE AT-LARGE FOR THE IBP MEMBERS REPRESENTING THEIR SECTOR, DESPITE THE FACT THE MEMBERS ARE SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE COUNTRY (TWO FOR LUZON, ONE EACH FOR VISAYAS AND MINDANAO, PLUS TWO AT-LARGE YOUTH MEMBERS). MEETING SEPARATELY, ACCORDING TO "BULLETIN TODAY," ALL CITY MAYORS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS YESTERDAY ENDORSED A SLATE OF SIX INDUSTRIAL LABOR CANDIDATES BUT "AGREED TO PERMIT A FREE-WHEELING CONTEST" FOR THE OTHER SECTORS. STULL

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